

Friis, John

From: charlyne olko [charlyne1121@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 11:00 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Testimony S.B.No. 1142

March 23, 2009

Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
Attention: Sen. Thomas P. Gaffey and Rep. Andrew M. Fleischmann

Re: Raised S.B. No. 1142, Session Year 2009

Dear Sen. Gaffey, Rep. Fleischmann, and the Education Committee members,

Please accept this letter as testimony for my opposition to S.B. No. 1142:

AN ACT CONCERNING RELIEF OF STATE MANDATES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

To delay the implementation of the in-school suspension mandate until July 1, 2011; to change the date in which a teacher is notified that his or her contract will not be renewed from April first to May first; to require that providers of school readiness programs submit space allotment reports every other month; to establish that the burden of proof lies with the party requesting a special education hearing; to provide that a local or regional board of education's commitment to provide special education to a child terminates upon the child's twenty-first birthday; and to eliminate certain reporting requirements on local and regional boards of education.

This bill will seriously impact my son's education and other disabled students. My son is continually suspended for behavior that typical students are not. Suspension is continually used and abused and an excuse to deny him an education. Delaying the suspension provision would further impact his education.

IDEA states that students are entitled to a free and appropriate education and that should be until the end of the school year that disabled students turn 21. I am opposed to having educational services abruptly terminated at age 21.

Parents do not have unlimited legal funding and access to educational experts and documentation as the school districts to bear the burden of proof. The administrative procedures that currently exist are extremely difficult without incurring any additional hardship to parents.

Charlyne Olko
Enfield

3/23/2009